

Angeles Times in an article of September 24, 1997, for earning the distinction of serving as a congressional page. I am especially pleased that she was chosen as a page in the House of Representatives. However, I am more pleased to have Ashley as an official representative of the 48th District of California. She is truly exceptional. I wish her well.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH STEWART  
CARLSON—A QUIET AMERICAN  
HEROINE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, few Members of this House have had the good fortune that I have enjoyed since I first became a Member in 1981. My greatest good fortune has been to have a district office staff of extraordinary high caliber.

For most of the 17 years that I have served in this body, I have benefited enormously from the dedication of a quiet, dignified, vital American heroine, special assistant in my district office, Elizabeth Stewart Carlson. Just a few days ago on October 3, we celebrated her 80th birthday, and at the same time we marked the beginning of another decade of dedicated service to the lives of so many by this wise, wonderful, and brave woman.

Elizabeth Carlson has been firmly rooted in the San Francisco Bay Area all of her life. Her father served for some time as the mayor of the City of Vallejo in the East Bay. As were so many in our area and elsewhere in our Nation, Betty Carlson was deeply affected by her teenage experience in the Bay Area during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Although her own family escaped some of the worst consequences of that difficult period, she saw the lives and health of others visibly ground down by deprivation and suffering. It was during that time that Betty Carlson first practiced and learned her quiet courage.

Mr. Speaker, this early observation of widespread suffering produced a desire in Betty Carlson to serve humanity. She graduated as a registered nurse in time to serve in Bay Area hospitals during the Second World War, and, in recognition of her care and compassion, she received the award for Outstanding Graduate after One Year from the Mount Zion School of Nursing. Then, and throughout her entire 30-year career in nursing, Betty applied kindness, careful treatment, common sense, and empathy to countless patients, some of them very ill and dying.

Betty Carlson's first husband, who had a career in law enforcement, met an early death in a line-of-duty accident. Because of her husband's profession, Betty lived a life of particular courage. The families of individuals which have pursued careers in public safety know the daily bravery required to watch a loved one go off to work with the knowledge of the personal danger that is involved.

Betty Carlson did not sit idly at home and wait, however. In addition to her professional nursing career, she was fully engaged in activities to support their son Frank. She continued her motherly responsibilities after her second marriage to Sten Carlson, and, with the birth of their son Eric, her responsibilities in-

creased in such areas as the PTA, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups.

In addition to her efforts with those groups that were important to her family, Betty Carlson has provided leadership and countless hours of service to many major civic and philanthropic organizations during Sten's long and dedicated service with United Airlines, and since his retirement.

The skill, compassion, courage, and leadership which Betty Carlson developed and demonstrated in her family, civic life, and formal nursing career during the first 30 years of her adult life would have made her a most highly valued member of my congressional staff. But one horrible experience she endured in 1974 has brought Betty enormous suffering, heroic reaffirmation, and positive public social action.

Mr. Speaker, in 1974, Betty Carlson's son Frank and his young wife Annette were viciously attacked in their San Francisco home. In one of the most reprehensible and appalling crimes that I have ever known about, Frank and his wife Annette were brutally and senselessly tortured and then left for dead. Betty's beloved son Frank died during that long and tragic night. Annette, Frank's wife and Betty's daughter-in-law, miraculously survived.

It is entirely fitting that we view Betty Carlson's suffering since that tragic event, her resulting religious struggle and reaffirmation, and the ongoing, quiet heroism of her principled and constructive public response in a similar light to the response of the heroic, non-violent Guatemalan Mayan Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, after the similarly terrible torture and murder of her mother.

With the help of Betty's husband Sten and other loved ones, prayer, pastoral counsel, her own great courage, and the healing of time, Betty Carlson survived, and has helped her son's wife to live an active and productive life. Betty cofounded and served as president of the group Justice for Murder Victims. In 20 years, this group has greatly improved public awareness and to some extent improved our laws in dealing with families of the victims of murder. I have the greatest respect for Betty Carlson's ongoing service and the kindness mixed with common sense which she has shown toward many who have suffered.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Betty Carlson's 80th birthday I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding woman. We extend to her our very best wishes that she may continue to offer many more years of public service, commitment to her religious community, and a joyous family life with her husband Sten, her son Eric, and her daughters-in-law Wai Ling and Annette.

TRIBUTE TO AILEEN HARPER

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Aileen Harper for her extraordinary contributions and dedication to the Center for Health Care Rights in Los Angeles.

The Center for Health Care Rights is a California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to assuring consumer access to quality health care through information, education, counsel-

ing, advocacy, and research programs. Founded in 1984 as the Medicare Advocacy Project, the Center for Health Care Rights has gained widespread recognition as a leader among the State's health insurance counseling and advocacy programs. The center offers more than 1 million Medicare beneficiaries in Los Angeles County a free, one-stop service center that provides much needed counseling and education.

The success of the Center for Health Care Rights depends greatly upon its devoted and knowledgeable staff. Aileen is being presented with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program Service Award for her ongoing leadership and vision at the center. This past September marked her 13th anniversary with the center. During her tenure, Aileen has developed and managed programs in community education and counseling designed to provide assistance with Medicare, managed care, long-term care, and other related health insurance matters that Medicare beneficiaries face in Los Angeles County.

Aileen currently serves as the director of district service programs, continuing her long-time commitment to serving the center's clients, particularly the underserved elderly and disabled populations who seek the center's counsel. She has also developed extensive experience with consumer concerns and protections in Medicare and managed care, having authored a number of consumer training materials that are used not only by the center, but by other Medicare advocates in California as well.

Our community owes Aileen a debt of gratitude for her significant accomplishments and distinguished record of achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding her tremendous efforts and in wishing her happiness and success for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARRIAGE  
PENALTY RELIEF ACT

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of H.R. 2593, the Marriage Penalty Relief Act. I am pleased to report that a bipartisan group of my colleagues, including Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. WELLER, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SHAW, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. CAMP, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DUNN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. COYNE have joined me in this effort to provide relief to those couples who pay more in taxes simply because they are married.

Now that the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 has been signed into law, Congress must begin to consider its options for further tax relief in 1998. While this year's landmark tax cut does provide important benefits to students, investors, small business owners, and families with children, no specific provisions were included to assist those families victimized by the marriage penalty. I strongly believe that marriage penalty relief should figure prominently into the next tax cut passed by Congress.